

What is claimed is:

1. A product maintenance method, comprising:
    - receiving access regarding a repair request for a
    - 5 product from a terminal of a user who uses the product via the Internet;
    - transmitting screen information with regard to repair conditions set for repairing the product to the terminal of the user via the Internet; and
  - 10 receiving an agreement to the repair conditions and a repair request for the product from the terminal of the user via the Internet.
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2. A product maintenance method according to claim 1,
  - 15 further comprising:
    - transmitting screen information for displaying an input screen to enable entry of user information including information with regard to a product to be repaired to the terminal of the user via the Internet;
    - 20 receiving the user information from the terminal of the user via the Internet;
    - assigning a repair order ID corresponding to the repair request is assigned;
    - storing the user information in a storage device
  - 25 together with said repair order ID; and

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transmitting information indicating said repair order ID to the terminal of the user via the Internet.

3. A product maintenance method, comprising:

5 receiving a repair request for a product from a terminal of a user who uses the product via the Internet;

selecting a packing box corresponding to the product, the repair request for which has been received, based upon product information stored in a database; and

10 transmitting information instructing delivery of the selected packing box to the user, to a server of a transport operator via the Internet.

4. A product maintenance method according to claim 3,  
15 further comprising:

transmitting information instructing that the product packed in the packing box be picked up from the user to the server of the transport operator via the Internet; and

transmitting information instructing delivery of the  
20 product that has been repaired to the user, to the transport operator via the Internet upon completion of repair of the product.

5. A product maintenance method, comprising:

25 receiving a repair request for a product from a terminal

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of a user who uses the product via the Internet; and  
transmitting information regarding the product which  
enables a transport operator to select a packing box  
corresponding to the product the repair request for which has  
5 been received, and information instructing delivery of the  
selected packing box to the user, to a server of the transport  
operator via the Internet.

6. A product maintenance method according to claim 5,  
10 further comprising:

transmitting information instructing that the product  
packed in the packing box be picked up from the user  
transmitted to the server of the transport operator via the  
Internet; and

15 transmitting information instructing delivery of the  
product that has been repaired to the user, to the transport  
operator via the Internet upon completion of repair of the  
product.

20 7. A product maintenance method according to claim 6,  
further comprising:

transmitting an repair cost estimate for the product,  
the repair request for which has been received, to the  
terminal of the user via the Internet prior to starting a  
25 repair work;

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obtaining a repair approval based upon said estimate from the user via the Internet; and

said repair cost estimate including a price of the packing box and a price of collecting and delivering the  
5 product.

8. A product maintenance method comprising:

receiving a repair request for a product from a terminal of a user who uses the product via the Internet;

10 transmitting a repair cost estimate for the product, the repair request for which has been received, to the terminal of the user via the Internet; and

obtaining a repair approval based upon said estimate from the user via the Internet.

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9. A product maintenance method according to claim 8, further comprising:

transmitting an estimate of a repair completion date to the terminal of the user together with said estimate for  
20 the repair cost.

10. A product maintenance method, comprising:

receiving a repair request for a product from a terminal of a user who uses the product via the Internet;

25 assigning a repair order ID corresponding to the repair

request; and

transmitting information indicating said repair order ID to the terminal of the user via the Internet.

5 11. A product maintenance method according to claim 10, further comprising:

storing a repair progress status for the product at each stage including a delivery preparation status in a storage device in correspondence to said repair order ID; and

10 when an inquiry on the repair progress status is made from the terminal of the user by indicating said repair order ID via the Internet, obtaining the repair progress status corresponding to said repair order ID from said storage device and transmitting the repair progress status thus obtained to 15 the terminal of the user via the Internet.

12. A product maintenance method, comprising:

receiving access regarding a repair request for a product from a terminal of a user who uses the product via 20 the Internet;

transmitting screen information with regard to repair conditions set for repairing the product to the terminal of the user via the Internet;

transmitting screen information for displaying an 25 input screen to enable entry of user information including

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information with regard to the product to be repaired to the terminal of the user via the Internet;

receiving an agreement to the repair conditions and the user information from the terminal of the user via the

5 Internet;

determining to receive the repair request for the product;

assigning a repair order ID corresponding to the repair request;

10 storing the user information in a storage device together with said repair order ID;

transmitting information indicating said repair order ID to the terminal of the user via the Internet;

selecting a packing box corresponding to the product,

15 the repair request for which has been received, based upon product information stored in a database;

transmitting information instructing delivery of the selected packing box to the user, to a server of a transport operator via the Internet;

20 transmitting information instructing that the product packed in the packing box be picked up from the user, to the server of the transport operator via the Internet;

transmitting a repair cost estimate for the product, the repair request for which has been received, to the

25 terminal of the user via the Internet prior to starting a

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repair work;

obtaining a repair approval based upon said estimate from the terminal of the user via the Internet;

storing a repair progress status for the product at each  
5 stage including a delivery preparation status in a storage device in correspondence to said repair order ID;

when an inquiry on the repair progress status is made from the terminal of the user by indicating said repair order ID via the Internet, obtaining the repair progress status  
10 corresponding to said repair order ID from the storage device and transmitting the repair progress status thus obtained to the terminal of the user via the Internet;

transmitting information instructing delivery of the product that has been repaired to the user, to the server of  
15 the transport operator via the Internet upon completion of repair of the product; and

transmitting information instructing that a repair fee be collected to a server of a repair fee collector via the Internet upon completion of the repair on the product.

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13. A product maintenance business system, comprising a product user, a product maintenance business operator, a transport operator, and a repair fee collector which are connected via the Internet, wherein:

25 said product maintenance business operator receives a

repair request for a product from the product user, selects a packing box corresponding to the product, estimates a repair cost and repairs the product;

5       said transport operator delivers said packing box to the product user, picks up the product to be repaired from the product user and delivers the product having been repaired to the product user; and

          said repair fee collector collects a repair fee.

10      14. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

      a server of a product maintenance business operator that is connected with a terminal of a product user, a server of a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector  
15     via the Internet, wherein

          said server of the product maintenance business operator executes:

          processing for displaying repair conditions set for a product on a homepage on the Internet;

20       processing for inputting information from the product user indicating an agreement to the repair conditions and storing said information in a storage device; and

          processing for assigning a repair order number and notifying the product user of the repair order number via the  
25     Internet.

15. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

a server of a product maintenance business operator that  
5 is connected with a terminal of a product user, a server of a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector via the Internet, wherein

said server of the product maintenance business operator executes:

10 processing for searching a packing box corresponding to a product, a repair request for which has been issued by the product user, from a database having stored therein data of different packing boxes corresponding to various types of products; and

15 processing for issuing a request to the transport operator for delivery of the packing box that has been selected through a search to the product user via the Internet.

20 16. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

a server of a product maintenance business operator;  
and

a server of a transport operator, wherein:

25 said server of the product maintenance business

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operator and said server of the transport operator are connected with each other and are also connected with a terminal of a product user and a server of a repair fee collector, via the Internet;

5       said server of the product maintenance business operator transmits information indicating a type of product, a repair request for which has been issued by the product user, and a request for packing box delivery, to said server of the transport operator via the Internet; and

10      said server of the transport operator server searches a packing box corresponding to the product, the repair request for which has been issued by the product user, from a database having stored therein data representing different packing boxes corresponding to various types of products.

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17. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

20      a server of a product maintenance business operator that is connected with a terminal of a product user, a server of a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector via the Internet, wherein

          said server of the product maintenance business operator executes:

25      processing for transmitting a repair cost estimate for the product, the repair request for which has been issued by

the product user, to the product user in an electronic mail via the Internet; and

processing for receiving an approval of contents of said repair cost estimate and the repair request from the product  
5 user via the Internet.

18. A product maintenance business system according to claim 17, wherein

said server of the product maintenance business  
10 operator estimates a delivery completion date in addition to estimating a repair cost for the product and transmits said repair cost estimate with said repair completion date entered therein.

15 19. A product maintenance business system according to claim 17, wherein

said repair cost includes fees for a price of a packing box delivered to the product user and fees for delivering the packing box and delivering the product to be repaired.

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20. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

a server of a product maintenance business operator that is connected with a terminal of a product user, a server of  
25 a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector

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via the Internet, wherein:

    said server of the product maintenance business operator assigns a repair order number and notifies the product user of said repair order number via the Internet upon 5 receiving a repair order for a product from the product user via the Internet, and identifies the product under repair in correspondence to said repair order number when there is an inquiry from the product user.

10     21. A product maintenance business system, comprising:

        a product user, a product maintenance business administrator, a product repair service operator, a transport operator and a repair fee collector which are connected via the Internet, wherein:

15        said product maintenance business administrator receives a repair request for a product from the product user and selects a packing box corresponding to the product;

        said product repair service operator estimates a repair cost and repairs the product;

20        said transport operator delivers the packing box to the product user, picks up the product to be repaired from the product user and delivers the product having been repaired to the product user; and

        said repair fee collector collects a repair fee.

22. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

a server of a product maintenance business administrator that is connected with a terminal of a product user, a server of a product repair service operator, a server of a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector via the Internet, wherein

said server of the product maintenance business administrator executes:

10 processing for displaying repair conditions set for a product on a homepage on the Internet;

processing for inputting information from the product user indicating an agreement to the repair conditions and storing said information in a storage device; and

15 processing for assigning a repair order number and notifying the product user of the repair order number via the Internet.

23. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

a server of a product maintenance business administrator that is connected with a terminal of a product user, a server of a product repair service operator, a server of a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector via the Internet, wherein

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    said product maintenance business administrator server  
executes:

        processing for searching a packing box corresponding  
        to a product, a repair request for which has been issued by  
5     the product user, from a database having stored therein data  
        of different packing boxes corresponding to various types of  
        products; and

        processing for issuing a request to the transport  
        operator for delivery of the packing box that has been  
10    selected through a search to the product user via the  
        Internet.

24. A product maintenance business system for offering  
product repair services, comprising:

15       a server of a product maintenance business  
administrator; and

        a server of a transport operator, wherein:

        said server of the product maintenance business  
administrator and said server of the transport operator are  
20    connected with each other and are also connected with a  
        terminal of a product user, a server of a product repair  
        service operator and a server of a repair fee collector via  
        the Internet;

        said server of the product maintenance business  
25    administrator transmits information indicating a type of a

product, a repair request for which has been issued by the product user, and a request for packing box delivery to said server of the transport operator via the Internet; and

5       said transport operator server searches a packing box corresponding to the product, the repair request for which has been issued by the product user, from a database having stored therein data representing different packing boxes corresponding to various types of products.

10      25. A product maintenance business system for offering product repair services, comprising:

      a server of a product maintenance business administrator that is connected with a terminal of a product user, a server of a product repair service operator, a server 15 of a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector via the Internet, wherein:

      said server of the product maintenance business administrator executes:

20      processing for transmitting a repair cost estimate for the product, a repair request for which has been issued by the product user, to the product user in an electronic mail via the Internet; and

      processing for receiving an approval of contents of said repair cost estimate and said repair request from said product 25 user via the Internet.

26. A product maintenance business system according to  
claim 25, wherein

    said server of the product maintenance business  
5 administrator estimates a delivery completion date in  
addition to estimating a repair cost for repairing the product  
and transmits said repair cost estimate with said repair  
completion date entered therein.

10 27. A product maintenance business system according to  
claim 25, wherein:

    said repair cost includes fees for a price of a packing  
box delivered to the product user and fees for delivering the  
packing box and delivering the product to be repaired.

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28. A product maintenance business system for offering  
product repair services, comprising:

    a server of a product maintenance business  
administrator that is connected with a terminal of a product  
20 user, a server of a product repair service operator, a server  
of a transport operator and a server of a repair fee collector  
via the Internet, wherein:

    said server of the product maintenance business  
administrator assigns a repair order number and notifies the  
25 product user of said repair order number via the Internet upon

receiving a repair order for a product from the product user via the Internet, and identifies the product under repair in correspondence to said repair order number when there is an inquiry from the product user.

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29. A computer-readable computer program product containing a program for product maintenance processing, the program comprising:

an instruction for receiving a repair request for a  
10 product from a terminal of a user who uses said program via  
the Internet;

an instruction for selecting a packing box  
corresponding to the product, the repair request for which  
has been received, based upon product information stored in  
15 a database; and

an instruction for transmitting information  
instructing delivery of the packing box that has been selected  
to the user to a server of a transport operator via the  
Internet.

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30. A computer-readable computer program product according  
to claim 29, wherein

said computer-readable computer program product is a  
recording medium on which said program is recorded.

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31. A computer-readable computer program product according to claim 29, wherein:

the computer-readable computer program product is a carrier wave in which the program is embodied as a data signal.